

worth celebrating. I am sure my colleagues will join me today in recognizing this unique and fitting tribute to a distinguished people and their heritage.

**TERRORISM IN PESHAWAR,
PAKISTAN**

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern for the ongoing situation in the city of Peshawar in the Northwest Frontier territory of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. For the past decade, Peshawar has been the breeding ground for terrorism and religious extremism. Peshawar is the unfortunate home to the infamous "Jihad University", a training camp where young men are forcibly molded into hardened terrorists. After completing their "studies" the "graduates" of "Jihad University" are then sent across Pakistan's border to spread death and destruction on Pakistan's neighbors.

For the past decade, people living in India's northern-most state of Jammu and Kashmir

and its western state of Punjab have been victims of bombings, assassinations, and other deadly actions. Similarly, terrorists from Peshawar have been sent west from Pakistan into neighboring Afghanistan to join the Taliban forces. Mr. Speaker, the Taliban rule most part of Afghanistan in one of the most repressive regimes on earth.

"Graduates" of Jihad University also have made their way to the United States. Those convicted of the World Trade Center bombings are believed to have been trained in Peshawar.

Mr. Speaker, we now learn that Pakistan's neighbor to the northwest, Uzbekistan, has also been the victim of Peshawar's terrorist tentacles. On February 16th of this year, Abdulaziz Kamilov, the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, held a special briefing in Tashkent to discuss the serious threats emanating from Peshawar. According to Minister Kamilov, more than 400 young people from Uzbekistan are undergoing "special training" on "different forms of terrorist activity at special camps located in Peshawar." Upon completion of their trainings according to Minister Kamilov, "these so-called students get back to Uzbekistan illegally . . . with a view of carrying out illegal subversive activities." Minister Kamilov also noted that special training centers have been

established in Islamabad, Mardon, and Karachi.

Mr. Speaker, Uzbekistan and Pakistan have historically enjoyed good relations. Both are Muslim countries. Minister Kamilov pointed out that his government believes these terrorist activities originating in Pakistan are "carried out without knowledge of official authorities in Pakistan." Indeed, Minister Kamilov said his government has concluded that these activities are "beyond the control of the concerned governmental bodies there" and the Ministry found it necessary to bring this grave matter to the attention of the Pakistani Government.

Mr. Speaker, Pakistan has long been a source of terrorism throughout South and Central Asia. Many governments, including our own, have repeatedly stated that they do not believe Pakistan has an official involvement with these terrorist organizations in Peshawar or other locations in Pakistan. Yet, these militant cells continue to operate openly with impunity. It is long past time for the Government of Pakistan to eliminate the terrorist gangs within its own borders. Continued failure to do so can only lead to the conclusion that the Government of Pakistan is much more than an innocent bystander